

REMARKS

The Examiner's Action mailed on September 29, 2005, has been received and its contents carefully considered. Additionally attached to this Amendment is a Petition for Three-month Extension of Time, extending the period for response to expire on March 29, 2006. Moreover, also attached to this Amendment is a Request for Continued Examination and associated fee, and payment for an excess claim fee of \$2,100.00.

In this Amendment, Applicant has amended claims 1, 15, and 16, canceled claims 11, 17, 20 and 22, and added claims 23-40. Claims 1, 16, 23, 24, 30, 32, 33, 37, 38 and 39 are the independent claims, and claims 1-10, 12-16, 18, 19, 21 and 23-40 are pending in the application. For at least the following reasons, it is submitted that this application is in condition for allowance.

The Examiner has rejected the claims as being either anticipated by or otherwise rendered obvious over various ones of the cited references. It is submitted that the claims are *prima facie* patentably distinguishable over the cited references, either taken alone or in any reasonable combination, for at least the following reasons.

Both independent claims 1 and 16 recite a specific configuration of the streaks, which is not disclosed or suggested by any of the cited references. This claimed configuration is advantageous since, and taking claim 16 as an example, and referring also to the attached Reference Figures 1 and 2, when a sliding member 91 slides in a sliding direction 93a to a counter part member, and the

streak 50 is recessed, hydraulic fluid collected in the recessed streak 50 will flow in a longitudinal direction of the recessed streak 50, from a front end 50a to a rear end 50b, and in the sliding direction of the recessed streaks 50 (Flow F1).

Subsequently, the hydraulic fluid thereafter will flow from the rear end 50b, in the sliding direction of the recessed streak 50, and generally in a longitudinally extending direction, to spread evenly on a surface of a sliding contact portion 92 (Flow F2).

In this situation, since a predetermined space is provided in the sliding direction between the rear end 50b of the recessed streak 50, and a next recessed streak 501 which opposes the rear end 50b in a longitudinal direction of the recessed streak 50, the hydraulic fluid of the Flow F2 will not be immediately collected in the next recessed streak 501, but will instead sufficiently lubricate the sliding contact portion 92 while flowing in the predetermined space, before finally being collected in the next recessed streak 501. As a result, sliding resistance is reliably reduced.

Moreover, some of the hydraulic fluid from the Flow F2 will be collected in a next recessed streak 502 in a column adjacent to the recessed streak 50 in a direction 93b opposite to the sliding direction 93a.

Similarly, when the streak 50 is protruded, hydraulic fluid collected around the protruded streak 50 develops flows F1 and F2 similar to that described above, which has the same advantageous results.

In contrast, none of the cited references disclose or suggest Applicant's claimed streaks, together with their claimed arrangement, as recited in claims 1 and 16. It is thus submitted that Applicant's claims are *prima facie* patentably distinguishable over the cited references. It is thus requested that these claims be allowed and that these rejections be withdrawn.

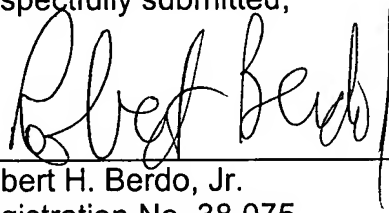
Moreover, claims 23 and 24 are submitted to be patentably distinguishable over the cited references, in that these claims recite "a line extended in a longitudinal direction of each of the recessed or protruding streaks of each of the columns traverses a corresponding recessed or protruding streak of the adjacent columns so as to intersect a line in a longitudinal direction of the corresponding recessed or protruding streak." This feature can be seen in the attached Referenced Figure 2, and is not disclosed or suggested by any of the cited references. It is thus also requested that these claims be allowed.

It is submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Such action and the passing of this case to issue are requested.

Should the Examiner feel that a conference would help to expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is hereby invited to contact the undersigned counsel to arrange for such an interview.

Should the remittance be accidentally missing or insufficient, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge the fee to our Deposit Account No. 18-0002, and advise us accordingly.

Respectfully submitted,



March 27, 2006
Date

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